

# HELP STOP VEHICLE CRIME

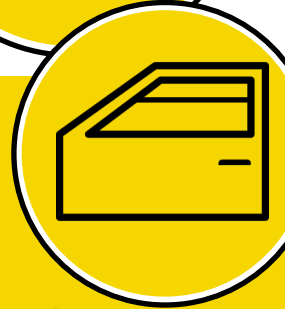


Having your car stolen or broken into can be very distressing. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle safe.

## Always lock it

It sounds obvious but double check your car is secure every time you leave it. Many thieves are opportunists and looking for easy targets.

It only takes a few seconds for a thief to steal something from your vehicle. Even if you are just popping in to pay for fuel or to get something from your house, make sure you lock it.



## Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'

Thieves can gain access to your vehicle using the smallest openings – sometimes using a bent coat hanger. Don't give them the opportunity.

## Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels

Stolen wheels are valuable. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.

## Secure your number plates with tamper resistant screws

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your number plates makes it harder for thieves to steal them.

## Don't leave valuables on display

Valuable such as wallets, handbags, purses, mobile phones, coins, sunglasses or medication left on display are an open invitation for thieves. Ideally don't leave them in the car but if you do, leave them out of sight.

## Park in well-lit and busier areas

It can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Deter thieves by parking in well-lit busy streets. This increases the chances of them being seen.

## Choose your car park wisely

Park in well-lit staffed car parks.

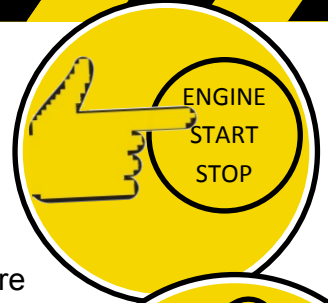
## Secure anything fitted on the outside of your vehicle

Anything left on roof racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when your vehicle is parked. Using cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tool chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.



## Tool thefts from vans

Vans are often targeted because thieves think there will be tools in them. Ideally don't leave tools in vans overnight. If you have to, make sure you clearly mark them with your name or your company's name using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Consider using a lockable cabinet in your van to secure your tools.



## Keyless car thefts

Thieves can steal your keyless car by hijacking and amplifying the signal from your starting device in order to start your vehicle. Help to protect your vehicle.

- Make sure your car is properly locked and keep your key away from doors and windows. This will reduce the chance of criminals amplifying the signal
- Some keys have a function allowing them to be turned off. Check your manual to see if yours does and then use it
- Use some kind of physical barrier such as a steering wheel lock, driveway parking post or wheel clamp. This will deter many criminals
- Fit a tracking device
- Keep your keys in a Faraday bag to block the signal
- Remove the batteries from your spare keys

## Catalytic converter thefts

Catalytic converters are stolen for their precious metal content. Protect your car.

- Keep your vehicle in a garage or secure area if you have one
- Alarms, lighting and CCTV help to deter thieves
- Buy a protection device for your catalytic converter
- Set your dash cam to detect movement
- Park with your exhaust close to a fence, wall or kerb to make it difficult for thieves
- Avoid parking half on the pavement and half on the road as this makes it easier for thieves
- If parking in a car park try to park alongside other cars
- Mark your catalytic converter with your car's serial number – this makes it harder for thieves to sell it on and means it can be tracked back to your vehicle if police seize it



**And remember, be on the lookout for people acting suspiciously and report it by calling 999.**

**For more information on car security go to [www.warwickshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention)**